

### Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 9-12, as follows:

Symbolically, assume a building has ~~N floors and m sectors~~ T floors and S sectors, with sector sizes of  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_m$ . ~~Define  $F = (f_1 + f_2 + \dots + f_m)/m$ .~~ Define  $F = (f_1 + f_2 + \dots + f_S)/S$ . According to this example, a nearly contiguous arrangement would be any sector grouping that is no more than the smallest integer greater than or equal to  $F/2$  away from a contiguous sector grouping.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 13-20, as follows:

One example includes a building having twenty floors (~~i.e.,  $N=20$~~  i.e.,  $T=20$ ). There are four sectors (~~i.e.,  $m=4$~~  i.e.,  $S=4$ ). The number of floors  $f$  within the four sectors are as follows:  $f_1 = 5, f_2 = 6, f_3 = 4, f_4 = 7$ . Accordingly,  $F = (5+6+4+7)/4 = 5.5$ .  $F/2 = 2.75$ , therefore, the smallest integer greater than or equal to 2.75 is 3. In this example, any arrangement that is not more than three interchanges from a fully contiguous arrangement of sectors satisfies the example criteria. In this example, there are overlapping sectors. In instances where there are non-overlapping sectors,  $F = N/m$   $F = T/S$ .

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 20-26, as follows:

Another technique designed according to this invention includes using top-weighted sectoring. This is shown, for example, in Figure 3. In this example there are four sectors,  $S_1, S_2, S_3$  and  $S_4$ , with four floors per sector. This technique can be implemented by following the strategy where there are  $S$  sectors and  $F$  floors per sector. Grouping the top  $F - 1$  floors with the  $S^{\text{th}}$  floor establishes a sector. The next sector includes the next highest unassigned  $F - 1$  floors and the  $S - 1^{\text{th}}$  floor (e.g., using the highest unassigned  $F - 1$  floors with the  $(S - m)^{\text{th}}$  floor, where  $m$  is the number of already established sectors out of the total  $S$  sectors). This process is repeated until all floors are allocated into a sector.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, lines 27-31, as follows:

In the example of Figure 3, there are four sectors ( $S=4$ ) and four floors per sector ( $F=4$ ). The first sector  $S_1$  is assigned to the top three (i.e.,  $4-1$ ) floors. ~~The  $4-1=3$  floors and the fourth~~ floor (i.e., floor 5 in the illustration). The second sector  $S_2$  includes the next available three top floors and the floor beneath the fourth floor (i.e., floor 4 in the illustration). Similarly, the third and fourth sectors are assigned in order.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 26 – page 7, line 5, as follows:

Assume an example where a building has  $C$  elevator cars and  $f$  floors ~~T floors~~. The floors are originally grouped into preliminary, contiguous sectors of contiguous floors where the  $j^{\text{th}}$  ~~contiguous~~  $j^{\text{th}}$  contiguous sector begins at floor  $(\text{start})_j$  and ends at floor  $(\text{end})_j$ . Assume that  $t$  of the  $C$  cars will serve the  $j^{\text{th}}$  preliminary, contiguous sector. Then, a  $K$ -modulus sectoring dispatching grouping and car assignment entails the following:

$t$  is greater than or equal to  ~~$k$~~   $K$ ;

the car  $C_i$ , where  $i$  equals  $1, 2, \dots, k$ , ~~has~~ has an assigned sub-channel consisting of those floors where  $i = \text{floor number} \pmod{k \pmod K}$ , restricted to being between floors  $(\text{start})_j$  and  $(\text{end})_j$ ; and

if  $t$  is greater ~~than  $k$~~  than  $K$ , the cars numbered greater ~~than  $k$~~  than  $K$  are assigned to handle the same floors in the sector if and only if  $i = j \pmod{k \pmod K}$ .

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 6-7, as follows:

It should be noted that in an example where  $k=K=1$ , the result would provide contiguous sectors.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 8-14, as follows:

As a numerical example, assume there are twelve cars in a building and 40 floors (i.e.,  $C=12$  and  $f=40$   ~~$T=40$~~ ). Assume the building floors are grouped into four preliminary, contiguous sectors with the first sector including floors 1-10, the second sector including floors 11-28, the third sector including floors 29-34 and the fourth sector including floors 34-40. Let  $j=2$ , so that we consider the second sector (i.e., floors 11-28). This provides  $(start)_2=11$  and  $(end)_2=28$ . Assume further that six of the twelve cars will service this particular preliminary sector ( $t=6$ ).

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 15-20, as follows:

In an example including the just-described four preliminary sectors and where  $K=3$ , car  $C_1$  handles calls to and from floors 13, 16, 19, 22, 25 and 28 as each of these floor numbers have a remainder of 1 (the subscript of the car number) when divided by three (which is the value of  $K$ ). Similarly, the car  $C_2$  handles calls to and from floors 11, 14, 17, 20, 23 and 26. The car  $C_3$  handles calls to and from floors 12, 15, 18, 21, 24 and 27. The floors assigned to each car establish non-contiguous sectors.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 21-23, as follows:

In this example,  $t$  is greater ~~than  $k$~~  than  $K$  so that car  $C_4$  handles the same floors as car  $C_1$  since  $4=1 \pmod{3}$ . Similarly, the car  $C_5$  handles the same floors as car  $C_2$  and car  $C_6$  handles the same floors as  $C_3$ .